

" independence. Among these forces have been counted Union Labor, the National Farm Organizations, the National Dairy Organizations, certain classes of manufacturers, and the representatives of the sugar-beet and sugar-cane States. Important financial interests, with heavy investments in Cuba, to serve their own purposes of obtaining the American market for Cuban sugar, are also not above the suspicion of having aided and abetted those who favor Philippine independence. The independence question, therefore, instead of being kept on a high ethical plane has degenerated in part into a sordid mess stirred up by many selfish interests.

My own investigation on the much-mooted question of Philippine independence leads me to these conclusions: The Filipino people have wanted their independence. American officials, whether rightly or wrongly, have led the Filipino people to think that some day and somehow the Philippines would be free and independent. The Filipino people were also induced to carry on an agitation for independence for patriotic reasons. If they had not displayed a characteristic to be found in the history of all races, who have ever been desirous of guiding their own destinies, the Filipinos would have displayed weakness of character. The few Filipinos who have not desired independence for the Philippines have been those with large financial interests, those so intellectually clear thinking as to see that the Filipinos have enjoyed all the benefits of independence without its responsibilities, and those who like their predecessors, the *mestizos* of Spanish times, have become parasites on the American Government.

It is true that Filipinos will tell you in strict confidence that they do not favor independence, but that they cannot say so publicly. Why is this? The principal reason is the desire of the Filipino to say the thing that pleases, and he assumes that Americans are enemies of independence. The weight of this class who attempt to play both ends for the middle is not great, for it is easy to understand that if they tell the Ameri-